

Operators of the q -oscillator

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Abstract. We scrutinize the possibility of extending the result of [19] to the case of q -deformed oscillator for q real; for this we exploit the whole range of the deformation parameter as much as possible. We split the case into two depending on whether a solution of the commutation relation is bounded or not. Our *leitmotif* is *subnormality*.

The deformation parameter q is reshaped and this is what makes our approach effective. The newly arrived parameter, the operator C , has two remarkable properties: it separates in the commutation relation the annihilation and creation operators from the deformation as well as it q -commutes with those two. This is why introducing the operator C seems to be far-reaching.

q -deformations of the quantum harmonic oscillator (the abbreviation the q -oscillator stands here for it) has been arresting attention of many¹ resulting among other things in quantum groups. Besides realizing the ever lasting temptation to generalize matters, it brings forth new attractive findings. This paper exhibits the *spatial* side of the story.

The q -oscillator algebra, which is the *milieu* of our considerations, is that generated by three objects a_+ , a_- and 1 (the latter being a unit in the algebra) satisfying the commutation relations

$$a_- a_+ - q a_+ a_- = 1; \quad (1)$$

it goes back to the seventies with [1] as a specimen. The other versions which appear in the literature are equivalent to that and this is described completely in [8] where a list of further references can be found.

Looking for $*$ -representations of (1) usually means assuming that $a_- = a_+^*$, with the asterisk denoting the Hilbert space adjoint. Thus what we start with is a *given* Hilbert space and the commutation relation

$$S^* S - q S S^* = I, \quad (\mathcal{O}_{q,\text{op}})$$

in it. Of course, q must be performed real then; this is what assume in the paper.

An easy-going consequence is

Lemma 1. If S is a weighted shift with respect to the basis $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ and

$$S^* S f - q S S^* f = f, \quad f \in \text{lin}\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty,$$

then $S e_n = \sqrt{1 + q + \dots + q^n} e_{n+1}$, $n \geq 0$.

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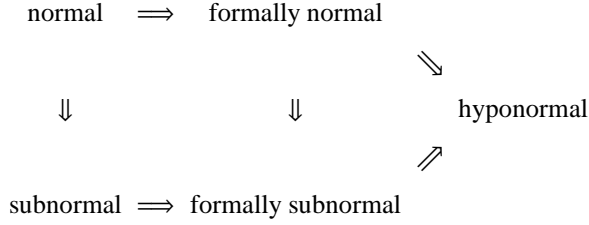
¹ q -deformations are vastly disseminated in Mathematical Physics and we would like to acknowledge here with pleasure [8] for bringing them closer to Mathematics

‘If S is a weighted shift’ – this is usually tacitly assumed when dealing with the relation $(\mathcal{O}_{q,op})$, like in [5]. It is sometimes made a bit more explicit in stating that a vacuum vector (or a ground state, depending on denomination in Mathematical Physics an author belongs to) of S exists. The point here (as it was in [19] for $q = 1$) is to discuss the case. It turns out that, like in [19], *subnormality* plays an important role in the matter (and this, the case $q = 1$ at least, is parallel to Rellich-Dixmier [12, 7] characterization of solutions to the CCR). Luckily, the above coincides with our belief that subnormality is the missing counterpart of complex variable in the quantization scheme.

Preliminary essentials

A short guide to subnormality. Recall that a densely defined operator A is said to be *hyponormal* if $\mathcal{D}(A) \subset \mathcal{D}(A^*)$ and $\|A^*f\| \leq \|Af\|$, $f \in \mathcal{D}(A)$. A hyponormal operator N is said to be *formally normal* if $\|Nf\| = \|N^*f\|$, $f \in \mathcal{D}(N)$. Specifying more, a formally normal operator N is called *normal* if $\mathcal{D}(N) = \mathcal{D}(N^*)$. Finally, a densely defined operator S is called (formally) *subnormal* if there is a Hilbert space \mathcal{K} containing \mathcal{H} isometrically and a (formally) normal operator N in \mathcal{K} such that $S \subset N$.

The following diagram relates these notions.



Though the definitions of formal normality and normality look much alike, with a little difference concerning the domains involved, the operators they define may behave in a totally incomparable manner. However, needless to say, these two notions do not differ at all in the case of bounded operators.

If A and B are densely defined operators in \mathcal{H} and \mathcal{K} resp such that $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{K}$ and $A \subset B$ then

$$\mathcal{D}(A) \subset \mathcal{D}(B) \cap \mathcal{H}, \quad \mathcal{D}(B^*) \cap \mathcal{H} \subset P\mathcal{D}(B^*) \subset \mathcal{D}(A^*) \quad (2)$$

where P stands for the orthogonal projection of \mathcal{K} onto \mathcal{H} ; moreover,

$$A^*Px = PB^*x, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}(B^*). \quad (3)$$

If B closable, then so is A and both A^* as well as B^* are densely defined. The extension \tilde{B} of B is said to be *tight* if $\mathcal{D}(\tilde{A}) = \mathcal{D}(\tilde{B}) \cap \mathcal{H}$ and **-tight* if $\mathcal{D}(B^*) \cap \mathcal{H} = \mathcal{D}(A^*)$. If $\mathcal{D}(B) \subset \mathcal{D}(B^*)$ (and this happens for formally normal operators as we already know), the two chains in (2) glue together as²

$$\mathcal{D}(A) \subset \mathcal{D}(B) \cap \mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{D}(B^*) \cap \mathcal{H} \subset P\mathcal{D}(B^*) \subset \mathcal{D}(A^*). \quad (4)$$

As we have already said a densely defined operator having a normal extension is just subnormal. However, normal extensions may not be uniquely determined in unbounded case as their minimality becomes a rather fragile matter, see [17]; even though the inclusions (4) hold for any of them. Moreover, even if all of them turn into equalities none of the normal extensions may be minimal of cyclic type (this is what ensures uniqueness); this

² Description of domains of weighted shifts and their adjoint can be found in [15].

will become effective when we pass to the case of $q > 1$. So far we have got an obvious fact.

P 1. A subnormal operator S has a normal extension which is both tight and $*$ -tight if and only if

$$\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*). \quad (5)$$

If this happens then any normal extension is both tight and $*$ -tight.

Because equality (5) is undoubtedly decisive for a solution of the commutation relation of (any of) the oscillators to be a weighted shift, subnormality is properly settled into this context.

q -notions. For x an integer and q real, $[x]_q \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1 - q^x)(1 - q)^{-1}$ if $q \neq 1$ and $[x]_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x$. If x is a non-negative integer, $[x]_q = 1 + q + \dots + q^{x-1}$ and this is usually referred to as a *basic* or q -number. A little step further, the q -factorial is like the conventional, $[0]_q! \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1$ and $[n]_q! \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [0]_q \cdots [n-1]_q$ and so is the q -binomial $\begin{bmatrix} m \\ n \end{bmatrix}_q \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{[m]_q!}{[m-n]_q! [n]_q!}$. Thus, if $-1 \leq q$ and $x \in \mathbb{N}$ the basic number $[x]_q$ is non-negative.

For arbitrary complex numbers a and q one can always define $(a; q)_k$ as follows

$$(a; q)_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1, \quad (a; q)_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1 - a)(1 - aq)(1 - aq^2) \cdots (1 - aq^{k-1}), \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Then for $n > 0$ one has $[n]_q! = (q, q)_n (1 - q)^{-n}$. Moreover, there are (at least) two possible definitions of q -exponential functions

$$e_q(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(q; q)_k} z^k, \quad z \in \omega_q,$$

$$E_q(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{\binom{k}{2}}}{(q; q)_k} z^k, \quad z \in \omega_{q^{-1}}, \quad q \neq 0,$$

where

$$\omega_q \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \{z; |z| < 1\} & \text{if } |q| < 1, \\ \mathbb{C} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

These two functions are related via

$$e_q(z) = E_{q^{-1}}(-z), \quad z \in \omega_q, \quad q \neq 0.$$

The q oscillator

Spatial interpretation of $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\text{op}})$. The relation $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\text{op}})$ has nothing but a symbolic meaning unless someone says something more about it; this is because some of the solutions may be unbounded. By reason of this we distinguish two, extreme in a sense, ways of looking at the relation $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\text{op}})$:

The first meaning of $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\text{op}})$ is

$$\begin{aligned} & S \text{ closable, } \mathcal{D} \text{ is dense in } \mathcal{H} \text{ and} \\ & \mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{D}(S^* \bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(\bar{S} S^*), S^* S f - q S S^* f = f, f \in \mathcal{D}. \end{aligned} \quad (\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$$

The other is

$$\langle S f, S g \rangle - q \langle S^* f, S^* g \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle, f, g \in \mathcal{D}(S) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*) \quad (\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$$

and, because this is equivalent to

$$\|S f\|^2 - q \|S^* f\|^2 = \|f\|^2, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}(S) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$$

it implies for S to be closable, $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ in turn is equivalent to

$$\langle \bar{S}f, \bar{S}g \rangle - q\langle S^*f, S^*g \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*).$$

The occurring interdependence, which follows, let us play variation on the theme of $(\mathcal{O}_{q,op})$.

1° $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ with \mathcal{D} being a core of $S \implies (\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ and $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \subset \mathcal{D}(S^*)$.

Indeed, for $f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S})$ there is a sequence $(f_n)_n \subset \mathcal{D}$ such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ and $Sf_n \rightarrow \bar{S}f$. Because S^* is closed we get from $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ that $S^*f_n \rightarrow S^*f$ and consequently $f \in \mathcal{D}(S^*)$ as well as $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$.

2° $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ with \mathcal{D} being a core of $S^* \implies (\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ and $\mathcal{D}(S^*) \subset \mathcal{D}(\bar{S})$.

This uses the same argument as that for 1°.

3° $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w}) \implies (\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ with $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}(S^*\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}S^*)$.

This is because $\mathcal{D}(S^*\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}S^*) \subset \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$.

4° $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ and $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$ a core of S and $S^* \implies \mathcal{D}(S^*\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}S^*)$.

Take $f \in \mathcal{D}(S^*\bar{S})$. This means $f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S})$ and $\bar{S}f \in \mathcal{D}(S^*)$. Because of this, picking $(f_n)_n \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$, we get from $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ in limit

$$\langle S^*\bar{S}f, g \rangle - q\langle S^*f, S^*g \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle \quad (6)$$

for $g \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$ and, because $g \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$ is a core of S^* , we get (6) to hold for $g \in \mathcal{D}(S^*)$. Finally, $S^*f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S})$. The reverse inequality needs the same kind of argument.

The above results in

5° $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ and $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*) \implies \bar{S}$ satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ on $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}(S^*\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}S^*)$.

Remark 2. Notice that when $q \neq -1$ and S satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ with $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}(S^*\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}S^*)$ for \mathcal{D} to be a core of S^* is necessary and sufficient $\mathcal{R}(S^*S)$ to be dense in \mathcal{H} .

The following is a kind of general observation and settles hyponormality (or bound-
edness) in the context of $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$.

P 3. (a) For $0 \leq q < 1$ and for S satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$, $S|_{\mathcal{D}}$ is hyponormal if and only if S is bounded and $\|S\| \leq (1-q)^{-1/2}$. (b) For $q < 0$ and for S satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$, $S^*|_{\mathcal{D}}$ is hyponormal if and only if S is bounded and $\|S\| \leq (1-q)^{-1/2}$.

P . Write $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ as

$$(1-q)\|Sf\|^2 = q(\|S^*f\|^2 - \|Sf\|^2) + \|f\|^2, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}.$$

and look at this. □

The selfcommutator. Assuming $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{D}(SS^*) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*S)$ we introduce the following operator

$$C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} I + (q-1)SS^*, \quad \mathcal{D}(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{D}. \quad (7)$$

This operator turns out to be an important invention in the matter. In particular there are two immediate consequences of this definition. The first says if S satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ with \mathcal{D} invariant for both S and S^* then \mathcal{D} is invariant for C as well and

$$CSf = qSCf, \quad qCS^*f = S^*Cf, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (8)$$

The other is that $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ takes now the form

$$S^*Sf - SS^*f = Cf, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}, \quad (9)$$

which means that C is just the selfcommutator of S on \mathcal{D} .

We would like to know the instances when C is a positive operator.

P 4. (a) For $q \geq 1$, $C > 0$ always. (b) For $q < 1$, $C \geq 0$ if and only if S is bounded and $\|S\| \leq (1 - q)^{-1/2}$. (c) For S satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$, $C \geq 0$ if and only if S is hyponormal.

P . While (a) is apparently trivial (b) comes out immediately from

$$\langle Cf, f \rangle = \|f\|^2 + (q - 1)\|S^*f\|^2, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}.$$

For (c) write (using $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$) with $f \in \mathcal{D}$

$$\langle Cf, f \rangle = \|f\|^2 + (q - 1)\|S^*f\|^2 = \|f\|^2 + q\|S^*f\|^2 - \|S^*f\|^2 = \|Sf\|^2 - \|S^*f\|^2.$$

□

Example 5. On the other hand, with any unitary U the operator

$$S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1 - q)^{-1/2} U \quad (10)$$

satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ if $q < 1$. The operator S is apparently bounded and normal. Consequently (the Spectral Theorem) it may have a bunch of nontrivial reducing subspaces (even not necessarily one dimensional) or may be irreducible and this observation ought to be dedicated to all those who start too fast generating algebras from formal commutation relations.

P 6. For $q < 1$ the only formally normal operators satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ are those of the form (10). For $q \geq 1$ there is no formally normal solution of $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$.

P . Straightforward. □

Example 7. An *ad hoc* illustration can be given as follows. Take a separable Hilbert space with a basis $(e_n)_{n=-\infty}^{\infty}$ and look for a bilateral (or rather *two-sided*) weighted shift T defined as $Te_n = \tau_n e_{n+1}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then, because $T^*e_n = \bar{\tau}_{n-1}e_{n-1}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ and $N \in \mathbb{Z}$ we get $|\tau_n|^2 = \alpha q^{n+N} + (1 - q^{n+N})(1 - q)^{-1} = \alpha q^{n+N} + [n + N]_q$ for all n if $q \neq 1$ and $|\tau_n|^2 = \alpha + n$ if $q = 1$; this is for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. The only possibility for the right hand sides to be non-negative (and in fact positive) footnote We avoid weights which are not non-negative, for instance complex, as they lead to a unitary equivalent version only. is $\alpha \geq (1 - q)^{-1}$ for $0 \leq q < 1$ and $\alpha = (1 - q)^{-1}$ for $q < 0$; the latter corresponds to Example 10. Thus the only bilateral weighted shifts satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$, with $\mathcal{D} = \text{lin}\{e_n; n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, are those $Te_n = \tau_n e_{n+1}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ which have the weights

$$\tau_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \sqrt{(1 - q)^{-1}}, & q \leq 0 \\ \sqrt{\alpha q^{n+N} + [n + N]_q}, & \alpha > (1 - q)^{-1}, N \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad 0 \leq q < 1 \\ \text{none}, & 1 \leq q \end{cases}$$

However, T violates hyponormality (pick up $f = e_0$ as a sample) if $0 < q < 1$. Also C defined by (7) is neither positive nor negative ($\langle Ce_0, e_0 \rangle = a > 0$ while $\langle Ce_{-1}, e_{-1} \rangle < 0$). Let us mention that T is q^{-1} -hyponormal in the sense of [13]. Anyway, T is apparently unbounded if $q > 0$. The case of $q \leq 0$ is precisely that of Example 10.

Example 8. Repeating the way of reasoning of Example 7 we get that the only unilateral weighted shifts satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ are those T , defined as $Te_n = \tau_n e_{n+1}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, which have the weights

$$\tau_n = \sqrt{[n + 1]_q}, \quad -1 \leq q.$$

This is so because the virtual, in this case, ' τ_{-1} ' is 0 ($T^*e_0 = 0$). If $-1 \leq q < 0$ they are bounded and not hyponormal, if $0 \leq q < 1$ they are again bounded and hyponormal and if $1 \leq q$ the are unbounded and hyponormal; the two latter are even subnormal (cf. Theorem 19 and 21 resp.).

Remark 9. According to Lemma 2.3 of [10] for $0 < q < 1$ the only cases which may happen are the orthogonal sums of the operators considered in Examples 7, 8 and given by formula (10). For $q > 1$, due to the same Lemma, the orthogonal sum of that from Example 8 can be taken into account.

An auxiliary lemma of [14]. We state here a result, [14] Lemma 2.4, which authorizes the examples above. We adapt the notation of [14] to ours as well as improve a bit the syntax of the conclusion therein.

L 10. Let $0 < p < 1$ and $\varepsilon \in \{-1, +1\}$. Assume T is a closed densely defined operator in \mathcal{H} . Then

$$T^*Tf - p^2TT^*f = \varepsilon(1 - p^2)f, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}(T^*T) = \mathcal{D}(TT^*) \quad (11)$$

if and only if T is unitarily equivalent to an orthogonal sum of operators of the following type:

• in the case of $\varepsilon = 1$

- (I) $T_I: f_n \rightarrow (1 - p^{2(n+1)})^{1/2} f_{n+1}$ in $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{+\infty} \mathcal{H}_n$ with each $\mathcal{H}_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{H}_0$;
- (II) $T_{II}: f_n \rightarrow (1 + q^{2(n+1)}A^2)^{1/2} f_{n+1}$ in $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathcal{H}_n$ with each $\mathcal{H}_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{H}_0$ and A being a selfadjoint operator in \mathcal{H}_0 with $\text{sp}(A) \subset [p, 1]$ and either p or 1 not being an eigenvalue of A ;
- (III) T_{III} a unitary operator;

• in the case of $\varepsilon = -1$

- (IV) $T_{IV}: f_n \rightarrow (p^{2n} - 1)^{1/2} f_{n-1}$ in $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{+\infty} \mathcal{H}_n$ with each $\mathcal{H}_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{H}_0$ and always $f_{-1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$.

A couple of remarks seem to be absolutely imperative.

Remark 11. The conclusion of Lemma 10 is a bit too condensed. Let us provide with some hints to reading it. First of all the way of understanding the meaning of f_n 's appearing in (I), (II) and (IV) should be as follows: take $f \in \mathcal{H}_0$ and define f_n as a (one sided or two sides, depending on circumstances) sequence having all the coordinates zero except that of number n which is equal to f . Then, with a definition

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{lin}\{f_n; f \in \mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{H}_0, n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ or } n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ depending on the case}\},$$

one has to guess that $\mathcal{D}(T_I) = \mathcal{D}(T_{IV}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{H}_0)$ and $\mathcal{D}(T_{II}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{D}(A))$. Passing to closures in (I), (II) and (IV) we check that \overline{T}_I as well as \overline{T}_{IV} are everywhere defined bounded operators (use $0 < p < 1$) while \overline{T}_{II} is always unbounded (though satisfying $\mathcal{D}(T_{II}^*\overline{T}_{II}) = \mathcal{D}(\overline{T}_{II}T_{II}^*)^3$).

Remark 12. To relate (11) to $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ set $\varepsilon = 1$, $p = \sqrt{q}$ and $T = \sqrt{1 - p^2}S$ when $0 < q < 1$, and $\varepsilon = -1$, $p^{-1} = \sqrt{q}$ and $T = p^{-1}\sqrt{p^2 - 1}S^*$ when $q > 1$.

Positive definiteness from $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$. The following formalism will be needed.

P 13. If S satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ with \mathcal{D} being invariant for both S and S^* , then

$$S^{*i}S^j f = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} [k]_q! \begin{bmatrix} i \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \begin{bmatrix} j \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q S^{j-k} C^k S^{*(i-k)} f, \quad f \in \mathcal{D}, \quad i, j = 0, 1, \dots, \quad (12)$$

³ In this matter we have implications 4° and 5° on p. 4.

If, moreover, $C \geq 0$ then

$$\sum_{i,j=0}^p \langle S^i f_j, S^j f_i \rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} [k]_q! \left\| \sum_{i=0}^p \begin{bmatrix} i \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q C^{k/2} S^{*(i-k)} f_i \right\|^2, \quad f_0, \dots, f_p \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (13)$$

All this under convention $S^l = (S^*)^l = 0$ for $l < 0$ and $\begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \end{bmatrix}_q = 0$ for $j > i$.

P. Formula (12) is in [6, formula (35)]. Formula (13) is an immediate consequence of (12). \square

As a direct consequence of Fact A and (13) we get

C. 14. Suppose S satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ with \mathcal{D} being invariant for S and S^* as well as \mathcal{D} is a core of S . If $C \geq 0$, then

$$\sum_{i,j=0}^p \langle S^i f_j, S^j f_i \rangle \geq 0, \quad f_0, \dots, f_p \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (\mathcal{PD})$$

A useful Lemma.

L. 15. Let $q > 0$. Consider following conditions:

- (a) S satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ and $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*)$;
- (b) $\mathcal{N}(S^*) \neq \{0\}$ and for $n = 0, 1, \dots$

$$f \in \mathcal{N}(S^*) \implies \bar{S}^n f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}), \quad \bar{S}^{(n-1)} f \in \mathcal{D}(S^*) \text{ \& } S^* \bar{S}^{n-1} f = (n-1) \bar{S}^{n-2} f; \quad (14)$$

- (c) there is $f \neq 0$ such that $\bar{S}^n f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S})$, $n = 0, 1, \dots$ and $\bar{S}^m f \perp \bar{S}^n f$ for $m \neq n$.

Then (a) \implies (b) \implies (c).

P. (a) \implies (b). The polar decomposition for S^* is $S^* = V|S^*|$ where V is a partial isometry with the initial space $\mathcal{R}(|S^*|)$ and the final space $\mathcal{R}(S^* S^*)$. Suppose $\mathcal{N}(S^*) = \{0\}$. Then, because $\mathcal{N}(V) = \mathcal{R}(|S^*|)^\perp = \mathcal{N}(|S^*|) = \mathcal{N}(\bar{S} S^*) = \mathcal{N}(S^*)$, V is unitary. Since $\bar{S} = |S^*| V^*$, from 5^o we get $V|S^*|^2 V^* = q|S^*|^2 + I$. Consequently, for the spectra we have $\text{sp}(|S^*|) \subset q \text{sp}(|S^*|) + 1 \subset [0, +\infty)$ which is an absurd. Thus $\mathcal{N}(S^*) \neq \{0\}$.

We show (14) by induction. Of course, $\mathcal{N}(S^*) \subset \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*)$, which establishes (14) for $n = 0$. Suppose $\mathcal{N}(S^*) \subset \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}^n)$ and $S^* \bar{S}^{n-1} f = (n-1) \bar{S}^{n-2} f$. Then, for $g \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*)$,

$$\langle S^* \bar{S}^{n-1} f, S^* g \rangle = (n-1) \langle \bar{S}^{n-2} f, \bar{S}^* g \rangle. \quad (15)$$

Because already $\bar{S}^{(n-2)} f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*)$, we have

$$|\langle S^* \bar{S}^{n-1} f, S^* g \rangle| \leq C \|g\|. \quad (16)$$

Because $\bar{S}^{(n-1)} f \in \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*)$, we can use $(\mathcal{O}_{q,w})$ so as to get

$$\langle \bar{S}^n f, \bar{S} g \rangle = \langle \bar{S} \bar{S}^{(n-1)} f, \bar{S} g \rangle = \langle S^* \bar{S}^{(n-1)} f, S^* g \rangle + \langle \bar{S}^{(n-1)} f, g \rangle.$$

This, by (16), implies $\bar{S}^n f \in \mathcal{D}(S^*) = \mathcal{D}(\bar{S})$ and, consequently, by (15), gives us $S^* \bar{S}^n f = n \bar{S}^{n-1} f$ which completes the induction argument. Now a straightforward application of (14) gives $\bar{S}^n(\mathcal{N}(S^*)) \subset \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$ for $n = 0, 1, \dots$

(b) \implies (c). Take any $f \in \mathcal{N}(S^*)$ and using (14) and (12) write

$$\langle S^m f, S^n f \rangle = \langle S^{n*} S^m f, f \rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\min\{m,n\}} [k]_q! \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \langle S^{(n-k)} C^k S^{*(m-k)} f, f \rangle = 0, \quad m > n.$$

\square

A matrix formation. Suppose $q > 0$ and S is a weighted shift with respect to $(e_k)_{k=0}^\infty$ with the weights $(\sqrt{[k+1]_q})_{k=0}^\infty$. With

$$S_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S, \quad S_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} q^{n/2} S, \quad D_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{[n]_q} \operatorname{diag}(q^{k/2})_{k=0}^\infty, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (17)$$

the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} S_0 & D_1 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & S_1 & D_2 & 0 & \ddots \\ 0 & 0 & S_2 & D_3 & \ddots \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (18)$$

defines an operator N in $\bigoplus_{n=0}^\infty \mathcal{H}_n$, $\mathcal{H}_n = \mathcal{H}$, with domain composed of all those $\bigoplus_{n=0}^\infty f_n$ for which $f_n = 0$ but a finite number of n 's. This matrix, for the familiar creation operator was set out in [21].

First we need to determine $\mathcal{D}(N^*)$ and relate it to $\mathcal{D}(N)$. If $0 < q < 1$ then each D_n is bounded. In that case Remark 9 in [20] gives us

$$\mathcal{D}(N^*) = \bigoplus_{n=0}^\infty \mathcal{D}(S_n^*). \quad (19)$$

If $q > 1$ then each $S_n D_n^{-1}$ is bounded. According to Proposition 4.5 in [11] and Corollary 8 in [20] we can deduce (19) as well. In either case, what we get is the adjoint of N can be taken as a matrix of adjoints (which is rather an exceptional case). Because the same argument concerning the adjoint of a matrix operator applies now to N^* we can assert that the closure operation for the operator N goes entrywise as well. Now, due to the fact that the apparent norm equality for N and N^* holds on $\mathcal{D}(N)$, we get essential normality of N . Consequently,

$$S \text{ is subnormal and } \bar{N} \text{ is its tight and } * \text{-tight normal extension.} \quad (20)$$

Subnormality in the q -oscillator

The case of S bounded. The next says a little bit more about boundedness of solutions of $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$.

P 16. Suppose S is bounded and satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$. (a) If $q < 0$ then $\|S\| \geq (1-q)^{-1/2}$. (b) If $0 \leq q < 1$ then $\|S\| \leq (1-q)^{-1/2}$. (c) If $q \geq 1$ then no such an S exists.

P . For (a) look at $\|Sf\|^2 = \|f\|^2 + q\|S^*f\|^2 \geq \|f\|^2 + q\|S\|^2\|f\|^2$, for (b) do at $\|Sf\|^2 = \|f\|^2 + q\|S^*f\|^2 \leq \|f\|^2 + q\|S\|^2\|f\|^2$. For (c) write $\|Sf\|^2 = \|f\|^2 + q\|S^*f\|^2 \geq q\|S\|^2\|f\|^2$ which gives $1 \geq q$. The case of $q = 1$ is excluded by the well known result of Winter. \square

The case of $q < 0$. Here we get at once

C 17. For $q < 0$ the only bounded operator S with norm $\|S\| = (1-q)^{-1/2}$ satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q,\mathcal{D}})$ is that given by (10).

P . By Proposition 16 (a) and Proposition 3 (b) $S^*|_{\mathcal{D}}$ is hyponormal. On the other hand, by Proposition 4 (b) and (c) $S|_{\mathcal{D}}$ is hyponormal too. Proposition 6 makes the conclusion. \square

Pauli matrices, which are neither hyponormal nor cohyponormal⁴, provide an example of operators satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{-1, \text{op}})$ with norm $1 > 2^{-1/2} = (1 - q)^{-1/2}$. Are there bounded operators satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \text{op}})$ with norm not to be equal $(1 - q)^{-1/2}$ for arbitrary $q < 0$, different from -1 say?

The case of $0 \leq q < 1$. We list two results which hold in this case

P 18. Suppose S satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ with \mathcal{D} dense in \mathcal{H} . If $0 \leq q < 1$, then the following facts are equivalent

- (i) S is bounded and $\|S\| \leq (1 - q)^{-1/2}$;
- (ii) S is bounded;
- (iii) S is subnormal;
- (iv) S is hyponormal.

P . Because of conclusion (a) of Proposition 4 the only remaining implication to argue for is (ii) \Rightarrow (iii). But, in virtue of (13), this comes out from the Halmos-Bram characterization [4] of subnormality of bounded operators. \square

T 19. If $0 \leq q < 1$, then the following facts are equivalent

- (i) there is an orthonormal basis $(e_n)_{n=0}^\infty$ in \mathcal{H} such that $S e_n = \sqrt{[n+1]_q} e_{n+1}$, $n = 0, 1, \dots$;
- (ii) S is irreducible⁵, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ with some \mathcal{D} dense in \mathcal{H} , is bounded and $\|S\| = (1 - q)^{-1/2}$;
- (iii) S is irreducible, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ with some \mathcal{D} dense in \mathcal{H} , is bounded and $\|S\| \leq (1 - q)^{-1/2}$;
- (iv) S is irreducible, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ with some \mathcal{D} dense in \mathcal{H} and is bounded;
- (v) S is irreducible, satisfies with some \mathcal{D} dense in \mathcal{H} $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ and is subnormal;
- (vi) S is irreducible, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ with some \mathcal{D} dense in \mathcal{H} and is hyponormal.

P . Proposition 18 establishes the equivalence of (ii) up to (vi).

Because $\sup\{\sqrt{[n+1]_q}; n \geq 0\} = (1 - q)^{-1/2}$ and for S as being a weighted shift $\|S\| = \sup\{\sqrt{[n+1]_q}; n \geq 0\}$, we get (i) \Rightarrow (ii).

Assume (iv). Because $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*)$, condition (c) of Lemma 15 let calculate the weights of \bar{S} while starting with $e_0 \in \mathcal{N}(N^*)$. Because S is irreducible the sequence $(e_n)_{n=0}^\infty$ is complete. This establishes (i). \square

Remark 20. From Theorem 19 and Example 5 we get that there are two, of different nature, solutions of $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$. Is there any other at all?

The case of $q > 1$. No bounded solution exists at all, cf. Proposition 16 part (c).

Let us memorize what is known already in the bounded case by the following tableau.

⁴ An operator A is said to be *cohyponormal* if A^* is hyponormal; for unbounded A this may not be the same as $A^*|_{\mathcal{D}(A)}$ to be hyponormal.

⁵ Let us recall relevant definitions: a subspace $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{D}(A)$ is *invariant* for A if $A\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{D}$; $A|_{\mathcal{D}}$ stands for the restriction of A to \mathcal{D} . On the other hand, a *closed* subspace \mathcal{L} is *invariant* for A if $A(\mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{D}(A)) \subset \mathcal{D}(A)$; then the restriction $A|_{\mathcal{L}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A|_{\mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{D}(A)}$. A step further, a closed subspace \mathcal{L} *reduces* an operator A if both \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{L}^\perp are invariant for A as well as $P\mathcal{D}(A) \subset \mathcal{D}(A)$, where P is the orthogonal projection of \mathcal{H} onto \mathcal{L} ; all this is the same as to require $PA \subset AP$. Then the restriction $A|_{\mathcal{L}}$ is called a *part* of A in \mathcal{L} . A is *irreducible* if it has no nontrivial reducing subspace. Comparing to the more familiar case of bounded operators some nuances become requisite here. Therefore, if \mathcal{L} reduces A , then $(A|_{\mathcal{L}}) = \bar{A}|_{\mathcal{L}}$ and $(A|_{\mathcal{L}})^* = A^*|_{\mathcal{L}}$.

		$q < 0$	$0 \leq q < 1$	$1 \leq q$
normal	general	SOME Exa. 10	SOME Exa. 10	
subnormal	unilat. shift		SOME Th. 19	
	bilat. shift	NONE Exa. 7	NONE Exa. 7	
	others	SOME Exa. 5	SOME Exa. 5	NONE Prop. 16(a)
hyponormal	unilat. shifts		SOME Th. 19	
	bilat. shift	NONE Exa. 7	NONE Exa. 7	
	other	SOME Exa. 5	SOME Exa. 5	

The case of S unbounded.

The case of $q < 0$. There is no hope to look for subnormal solutions of $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \text{op}})$ among weighted shifts, neither one- nor two-sided.

The only one-sided weighted shifts satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \text{op}})$ are for $-1 < q < 0$ and they are given as in (i) of Theorem 19. They are apparently not hyponormal (their weights are not increasing).

The only two-sided weighted shifts which satisfy $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \text{op}})$ are those of Example 7. They are normal bilateral weighted shifts. So if there are subnormal operators satisfying $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \text{op}})$ they must not be weighted shifts or bounded operators of norm less or equal $(1 - q)^{-1/2}$, cf. Corollary 17.

The case of $0 \leq q < 1$. Lemma 10 does not leave any hope subnormal solutions different than those in Theorem 19 but they must necessarily be bounded.

The case of $q \geq 1$. This is the right case for unbounded solutions to exist.

T 21. For a densely defined closable operator S in a complex Hilbert space \mathcal{H} consider the following conditions

- (i) \mathcal{H} is separable and there is an orthonormal basis in it of the form $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ contained in $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S})$ and such that

$$\bar{S}e_n = \sqrt{[n+1]_q} e_{n+1}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots; \quad (21)$$

- (ii) S is irreducible, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ with some \mathcal{D} being invariant for S and S^* and being a core of S , and S is a **subnormal** operator having a tight and $*$ -tight normal extension;
- (iii) S is irreducible, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \mathcal{D}})$ with some \mathcal{D} being a core of both S and S^* ;
- (iv) S is irreducible, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \text{w}})$ and $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) = \mathcal{D}(S^*)$;
- (v) S is irreducible, satisfies $(\mathcal{O}_{q, \text{w}})$ with $\mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$ being dense in \mathcal{H} , $N(S^*) \neq \{0\}$ and $\bar{S}^n(N(S^*)) \subset \mathcal{D}(\bar{S}) \cap \mathcal{D}(S^*)$ for $n = 0, 1, \dots$

Then (i) \implies (ii) \implies (iii) \implies (iv) \implies (v) \implies (i).

P . The implication (i) \implies (ii) comes out from (20). Proposition 1 leads us from (ii) to (iii), from there using Lemma 15 comes it up to (v). Now, like in the proof of Theorem 19, calculating the weights rounds up the chain of implications. \square

Now we visualize this section findings in the following tableau.

		$q < 0$	$0 \leq q < 1$	$1 \leq q$
normal	general	NONE Prop. 3(b)	NONE Prop. 3(a)	NONE Prop. 6
subnormal	unilat. shift			
	bilat. shift			NONE Exa. 7
	others			
hyponormal	unilat. shifts			
	bilat. shift			NONE Prop. 3(b)
	others			MAY Prop. 4(a)&(b)

The q oscillator: models in RKHS

A general look at. A reproducing kernel Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and its kernel K which suits our considerations is of the form

$$K(z, w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} c_n z^n \overline{w}^n, \quad z, w \in D, \quad D = \mathbb{C} \text{ or } D = \{z; |z| < R \leq 1\}. \quad (22)$$

Notice $(\sqrt{c_n} Z^n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ is an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{H} .

The following fact comes out, as a byproduct, from some general results on subnormality in [16]; we give here an *ad hoc* argument. Let us make a shorthand notation

$$\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{L}^2(\mathbb{C}, \mu) \text{ isometrically.} \quad (23)$$

P 22. *There is a measure μ such that (23) holds if and only if there is a Stieltjes moment sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ such that*

$$a_{2n} = c_n^{-1}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \quad (24)$$

If this happens than a measure μ can be chosen to be rotationally invariant⁶, that is such that $\mu(e^{it}\sigma) = \mu(\sigma)$ for all t 's and σ 's.

P . Suppose (23) to hold. Because $(\sqrt{c_n} Z^n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ is an orthonormal sequence in $\mathcal{L}^2(\mathbb{C}, \mu)$, we have

$$c_n^{-1} = \int_{\mathbb{C}} |z|^{2n} \mu(dz), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

Let m_μ be the measure on $[0, +\infty)$ transported from μ via the mapping $\mathbb{C} \ni z \rightarrow |z| \in [0, +\infty)$. Then

$$a_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^{+\infty} r^n m_\mu(dr) = \int_{\mathbb{C}} |z|^n \mu(dz), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \quad (25)$$

satisfies (24) as well as the sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ is a Stieltjes moment sequence.

⁶ Or *radial* as some authors say.

If $(a_n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ is any Stieltjes moment sequence with a representing measure m and satisfying (24) then the rotationally invariant measure

$$\mu(\sigma) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (2\pi)^{-1} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{+\infty} \chi_\sigma(r e^{it}) m(dr) dt, \quad \sigma \text{ Borel subset of } \mathbb{C} \quad (26)$$

makes the imbedding (23) happen. \square

T 23. *Under the circumstances of Proposition 22 there exists a not rotationally invariant measure μ such that (23) holds if and only if there is a sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ satisfying (24) which is not Stieltjes determinate.*

P . Suppose (23) with μ not rotationally invariant and define $(a_n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ as in (25). Thus there is and $s \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mu(\tau) \neq \mu(e^{is}\tau)$ for some subset τ of \mathbb{C} ; make τ maximal closed with respect to this property. Let ν be a measure on \mathbb{C} transported from μ via the rotation $z \rightarrow e^{-is}z$ and let m_ν be the the measure on $[0, +\infty)$ constructed from ν in the way m_μ was from μ , cf. (25). Because, what is a matter of straightforward calculation, m_μ and m_ν differ on $\{|z|; z \in \tau\}$, we get indeterminacy of $(a_n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ at once.

The other way around, if m_1 and m_2 are two different measures on $[0, +\infty)$ representing the Stieltjes moment sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ satisfying (24), then the measure μ on \mathbb{C} defined by

$$\mu(\sigma) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (2\pi)^{-1} \left(s \int_0^a dt \int_0^{+\infty} \chi_\sigma(r e^{it}) m_1(dr) + (1-s) \int_a^{2\pi} dt \int_0^{+\infty} \chi_\sigma(r e^{it}) (s m_2(dr)), \right.$$

σ Borel subset of \mathbb{C} , $0 < s < 1$, $0 < a < 2\pi$

is not rotationally invariant while still (23) is maintained. \square

Résumé. Define two linear operators M and D_q acting on functions

$$(Mf)(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} zf(z), \quad (D_q f)(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \frac{f(z) - f(qz)}{z - qz} & \text{if } q \neq 1 \\ f'(z) & \text{if } q = 1. \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

It turns out that for $a_+ = M$ and $a_- = D_q$ the commutation relation (1) is always satisfied. What Bargmann did in [3] was to find, for $q = 1$, a Hilbert space of entire functions such that M and D_1 are formally adjoint. This for arbitrary $q > 0$ leads to the reproducing kernel Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_q of analytic functions with the kernel

$$K(z, w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} e_q((1-q)z\bar{w}) \quad z, w \in |1-q|^{-1/2} \omega_q$$

where

$$\omega_q = \begin{cases} \{z; |z| < 1\} & \text{if } 0 < q < 1 \\ \mathbb{C} & \text{if } q > 1 \end{cases}$$

Under these circumstances we always have

$$\langle Z^m, Z^n \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_q} = \delta_{m,n} [m]_q!$$

and the operator $S = M$ act as a weighted shift with the weights $(\sqrt{[n+1]_q})$ as in Sample Theorem on p. 1.

Our keynote, subnormality of M now means precisely (23) with some μ is retained. Here we have three qualitatively different situations:

- (a) for $0 < q < 1$ the multiplication operator M is bounded and subnormal, this implies uniqueness of μ ;
- (b) for $q = 1$ the multiplication operator is unbounded and subnormal, it has a normal extension of cyclic type in the sense of [17] and consequently μ is uniquely determined as well;

- (c) for $q > 1$ the multiplication operator is unbounded and subnormal, it has no normal extension of cyclic type in the sense of [17] though it does plenty of those of spectral type in the sense of [17], which are not unitary equivalent⁷; explicit example of such, based on [2], can be found in [18] (one has to replace q by q^{-1} there to get the commutation relation (1) satisfied), an explicit example of non radially invariant measure μ is struck out in [9] and it also comes out from Theorem 23.

The author's afterword. The fundamentals of this paper have been presented on several occasions for the last couple of years, recently at the Będlewo 9th Workshop *Non-commutative Harmonic Analysis with Applications to Probability*. It was Marek Bożejko's contagious enthusiasm what catalysed converting at long last my distracted notes into a cohesive exposition.

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⁷ That is, there is no unitary map between the \mathcal{L}^2 spaces in question, which is the identity on \mathcal{H}_q .

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